

Sugar and Plantation News

LABOR TROUBLES AN INFLUENCE

Sales At New York Confined To Nearby "Distressed" Raw Sugars

European Consumption Has Been High In Spite of War Conditions

Sales of raw sugar at New York during the week ending June 8 were 65,000 bags Porto Rico, 25,000 bags Cuba, and 12,000 San Domingo, all in port or at nearby position. Willett & Gray report Cuban centrals grinding 32, against 23 last week, and 29 in 1914; and stocks in the United States and Cuba together of 1,069,652 tons against 1,094,749 tons last week and 1,197,119 tons last year, a decrease of 127,432 tons from last year.

The week was slightly reactionary by reason of the refiners generally withdrawing from the market because in part at least of the troubled labor conditions in the harbor and at the refineries. A number of these difficulties have been settled, but sufficient still remain an influence in checking free business.

As a result, sugars arriving and about were without a market as before, and have been pressed on unwilling buyers at concessions, the sales of such at the close showing decline from 5 1/2-10c per lb. c. & f. last week to 5 1/2-10c c. & f. per lb. this week for Cuba centrifugals in port or at float. This represents a slight but a small reaction when taken in connection with the former market of the previous week at the close.

Sales are reported to refiners and operators at 6.2c, giving the market a firmer tone.

Regarding present values from the basis of the statistical position of supplies and demand to October, little apprehension need be felt of any material decline, and a recovery, to some extent of lost values will not be surprising before very long.

Receipts of the week and total stocks increased, and meltings fell off slightly for reasons given. The increase in stocks is all for account of importers, the refiners' stocks showing a slight decrease. Full-duty sugar also declined, the last sales being at 5 1/2c c. i. f.

Renewed enquiry is noted on the C. O. B. Cuba basis, and a fair price of sugar has been sold, fully 10,000 tons, on private terms.

Visible Production Grows

Cuban receipts for the week at 48,515 tons continue in good size, notwithstanding the shutting down of 10 centrals during the week, leaving 32 grinding on June 5. Exports continue of fairly good size at 82,803 tons total, and which were distributed, 46,483 tons to the U. S. Atlantic Ports, 11,600 tons to New Orleans and 24,720 tons to Europe. Stocks are in consequence reduced to 859,841 tons.

Corrected visible production to May 31 is 2,709,700 tons, against 2,172,713 tons last year and 2,244,223 tons in 1914. The production for the month of May, 1916, was 340,897 tons, while 417,621 tons were produced in May last year. Visible production to June 3 is 2,733,957 tons, and compares with the corresponding dates of the two previous years of 2,211,113 tons and 2,280,223 tons respectively. Weather has been unsettled, although rain is wanted in the western portions of the island.

Consumption High in France

In France consumption for the year ending March 31, 1916, shows a falling off of only 8.7% compared with a normal consumption, notwithstanding the war and attendant high prices. Beet sowings are 9.7% larger than last year, and weather and cultural conditions are far superior to last year.

LIHUE BOYS LAND AND WATER IN KAUII OWNED BY PRINCEVILLE

H. Hackfeld & Company stated yesterday that Lihue Plantation Company has purchased a controlling interest in the stock of the Princeville Plantation Company on Kauai. Princeville lands comprise about 6000 acres, of which 700 is rice land. There are about 2000 head of cattle with the ranch. Princeville plantation was one of the first sugar producers in the territory, but has not been raising cane for a long time.

In local business circles the price is regarded as a substantial one and an indication that the Lihue directors have much faith in the future business to be handled through the ranch, cattle and rice projects.

The chief value of the property lies in its water rights. The consideration is reported to be \$250,000.

It is understood that the deal was negotiated by W. F. Sanborn, manager of the property, who had an option which was purchased by the Lihue company for \$10,000; also that Manager Sanborn retained a one-tenth interest in the plantation and will continue as its manager.

A. S. Wilcox has been the principal owner of the property and president of the corporation.

H-109 SEEDLING REPLACING LAHAINA CANE AT EWA

Seedling cane H-109 is going to take the place of the old original Lahaina variety at Ewa according to all indications and up to the present there has been no sign of its being affected with the "Lahaina disease" which necessitated throwing out the good old Bourbon standby. Castle & Cooke stated yesterday that H-109 is a big yielder, the juices are excellent, and both plant and ratoons are extremely well suited to the conditions of soil on the Ewa cane lands. The management is using this variety all the time in replanting.

Two other seedlings have also proved to be exceptionally good, H-20, and H-227. The plantation is proceeding carefully with these and is also experimenting with a small way with other seedlings including some which have been discovered growing as volunteers in their fields.

Rubber Tapping Experiments

Teysmann publishes the results of tapping experiments with Hevea bracteata trees in Sumatra by A. W. K. de Jong. A series of daily and alternate-day tapping tests were conducted with a number of Hevea rubber trees, the Fickenday process of tapping, which is supposed to increase the yield of latex, being compared with the usual method of tapping over a six-month period. The Fickenday process consists in a brief the monthly removal of an inch strip of the cork layer just under the cut. A specially constructed knife is used for this purpose.

HONOKAA TROUBLES WORST IN HONOLULU

Plantation Management Could Not Have Avoided Disputes In Any Way

Bonus Due Each Man Will Be Paid When Situation Is Adjudicated

Honokaa and Kakuhihale labor troubles exist only in the heated imagination of certain Japanese editors and merchants in Honolulu, according to advices from Hawaii received by F. A. Schaefer & Company yesterday. The row was all new to the plantation manager.

There have been differences but they were something that could not have been anticipated. The root of the whole matter is simply this—practically all of the work at Honokaa and Pacific plantations is performed by the laborers on a contract basis. There are planting contracts, seedling, hoeing, cultivation and cutting contracts.

When the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association voted to increase the bonus and change its system of distribution May 7 they also made it retroactive, to cover April as well as May. The plantation had not dealt directly with the individual laborers employed but with the contractors. All that the manager knew was that John Jones' gang had turned out twenty men on April 1, twenty-four men on April 2, eighteen on April 3, and so on. Who the men were who had worked each day on each contract the management did not know and there was no way of finding out except by taking the word of the contractors and of the men composing the different gangs.

This management has endeavored to do and the alleged troubles have been merely those incident to fitting in the claims of a thousand individual workmen not on the plantation time-books as individuals, with the work records of the different contractors which did show on the plantation books.

Injustice may have resulted in individual cases. It would have been a miracle had this not been so. On the other hand unscrupulous or dishonest laborers, of which there are always a few in any camp, gang or community, saw here an opportunity to get paid when they had done no work and those have made the fullest use of their opportunities.

F. A. Schaefer & Company yesterday gave out the following statement: "W. P. Naquin, manager of Honokaa Sugar Company and Pacific Sugar Mill states that the bonus will be paid on Honokaa and Kakuhihale plantations just as soon as he knows who is entitled to the same. He has not refused to pay the bonus and knew of no contemplated strike or trouble until getting our mail on Sunday. He writes: 'Up to last June no time was taken of the contractors by plantation time-keepers, i. e., number of men only being taken, no individual record, on that account, it is very hard to determine just who is entitled to the bonus.'

West Indian Cane Pests

In a recent report of the Imperial department of agriculture in the West Indies notes are given on insect pests of sugar cane on St. Kitts, also on root disease (Maramitis sacchari) destroying or stunting the canes, and on rind disease which was present in one locality in 1915, but did not appear during the period covered by this report.

ENGLAND BUYS JAVAS AGAINST 1917 CROP

Japan Times Reports 1916 Java Crop Smaller Than Last Year's

Japan Times publishes the following Java statistics showing the export of Java sugar to different destinations during the period from April last year to the end of February this year, and for the corresponding period of the preceding year. They are as follows: Export of Java Sugar

	1914-15	1915-16
To Asiatic countries	643,760	745,687
To Africa	61,150	99,143
To Australia	5,914	45,908
To Europe	506,406	293,078

Total 1,278,230 1,144,516

It will be seen that since the year before last no export has been made to the United States.

The export to Europe has decreased last year, but it is explained that this was because of the scarcity of vessels. Since April, however, the export to Europe is said to have increased greatly. It is further stated that the rise in the price of the Cuban sugar has caused the British and French markets to be very anxious to get a Java supply, and the purchase of the new sugar by the British government is reported to have already totaled 510,000 tons.

Best Buy for 1917

British buyers received by a sugar firm here announced that the British Government has already purchased 500,000 tons of the 1917 output, and this shows how keen is the demand for sugar in Europe. It is estimated that the European countries must purchase as much as 1,300,000 tons this year. How much Cuban sugar was purchased is not certain, but it is evident that the amount purchased from Cuba would not meet the demand.

Japanese Prospects Good

The following is the list of figures showing the production in recent years:

Year	Tons
1910	1,241,726
1911	1,260,709
1912	1,466,569
1913	1,406,399
1914	1,404,942
1915	1,374,879
1916	1,350,000

Thus the amount of output has made no appreciable progress in the few years past, while the demand is increasing. It then follows inevitably that the price of sugar tends to rise for the time being, unless the production of beet sugar in Europe recovers its level before the war.

SUGAR SITUATION ON FIRST OF JUNE

Willett & Gray Say that Strike Has Affected Market in New York

Statistically There is Indication of Renewal of Activity On Upward Side

Sales of raw sugar at New York during the week ending June 1 were 160,000 bags Cuba, 25,000 San Domingo and 5000 Porto Rico. Willett & Gray's report stated in part that central grinding were 42, against 33 last week, 102 last year and 33 in 1914.

Stocks in the United States and Cuba together were 1,096,749 tons, against 1,144,813 tons last week and 1,215,617 tons last year, a decrease of 121,868 tons from last year.

Several holidays intervened during the week under review, which tended to keep the market quiet at the reopening of business on Wednesday. The close of transactions last week was 6.27c for nearby Cuba Centrifugals and 6.02c for Porto Rico.

The opening sales this week for same position were at 6.40c for Cuba and with 6.14c to 6.27c asked for Porto Rico, but at the close the tone was easier, with sales at 6.33c for Cuba and 6.27c for Porto Rico, with outport options at 6.14c.

Strike Has Ended

The strike conditions remained unimproved until the close, when an agreement was made that a settlement was practically arranged.

Statistically the sugar situation favors some renewal of activity on the upward side of the raw sugar market during the month of June, but to what extent is more or less uncertain, as much still depends on the relations of labor to the different industries connected with sugar refining. Furthermore, some improvement in the demand for refined, both local and export, is needed to sustain any advance. At present the refined demand is limited.

Some Inquiry is noted for Cubas on an f.o.b. Cuba basis at around 4.85c, and a fairly good business has been put through at about this figure.

Cuban receipts for the week at 46,914 tons show the natural falling off of production towards the end of the crop. Total exports are large at 98,645 tons for the week, but only moderate for those destined U. S. Atlantic ports of 44,020 tons, with 7280 tons to New Orleans, while the shipments to Europe are large at 47,345 tons. The large exports have decreased the stock in Cuba from the high point of last week to 894,189 tons May 29, and on which date 49 Centrals continued grinding. Visible production to May 27 is 2,688,996 tons, against 2,162,092 tons last year and 2,223,328 tons in 1914.

Heavy Taxes on Sugar

An France the government has assessed a tax on sugar as follows:

	For 100 kilos
Crystallized and granulated	78.00
Customs duty and refining tax	25.00
Consumption tax	25.00

Equal to 0.768c per lb. at par of exchange to apply on sugars sold wholesale. The cost of package is also to be added.

INQUIRY IS BEGUN INTO CHIYO WRECK

Only Captain Bent and First Officer Sakai To Be Examined

Official inquiry into the loss of the Teoyo Kinen Kaisha steamer Chiyo Maru, wrecked on Lema Islands Hongkong, March 31, was to begin at Tokio yesterday.

Captain Ernest Bent and the chief officer, Hachiro Sakai, will be examined. The hearing is before Judge Takatori and Judges Nagura and Katori, associates. The hearing is expected to last several days.

Bent Made Report

On the order of the Tokyo marine court, Messrs. Hori and Shioda, engineering of the company, who were staying at Hongkong made an investigation of the disaster and of the causes leading to the accident. Soon after, Captain Bent submitted a report to Mr. Imai, Japanese Consul-General at Hongkong, Captain Bent and Chief Officer Sakai, also were subjected to an examination by Marine Judge Nagura on their arrival at Yokohama on May 14. Inquiries were also put to the chief engineer and several other senior officers. Except Captain Bent and Chief Officer Sakai, no others will be heard at the examination. Until this formal inquiry nothing will be made public in reference to the preliminary inquiries.

Three Punishments Possible

In an interview Marine Judge Nagura, who is in charge of the preliminary examination, said:

"As Captain Bent is an American, an interpreter will be employed, when the hearing will be held. But since there will frequently occur many technical terms, it is a difficult matter to find a competent interpreter, one who is well versed in technical terms, and two officers will be permitted to have their lawyers. If there are no further disclosures in regard to the causes of the accident, the Chiyo case will be comparatively simple. Such cases are never so complicated as those in which there have been collisions between two vessels."

"There are three ways of punishing these officers if they are found to be responsible. The first is a reprimand; the second is temporary suspension of their certificates, the third, which is the most severe, is disqualification."

DIBBY WASTED TO A MERE SKELETON

With Terrible Eruptions—Crew Worse in Spite of Doctors—Would Scratch and Tear Flesh Unless Hands were Tied—Mother Says

HE WOULD HAVE DIED BUT FOR CUTICURA

"My little son, when about a year and a half old, began to have eruptions on his face. I had a physician treat him, but the eruptions grew worse. Then he began to come on his arms, then on other parts of his body. He had a body that was a mere skeleton, and was hardly able to walk."

SLIDES IN CANAL DELAY BRITISHER

Eurymachus Held Up Four Days While Dredges Remove Earth At Culebra

With 7000 tons of cargo for Vladivostok, Hongkong, Saigon and Singapore, the British steamer Eurymachus of the Blue Funnel line, Capt. F. Adcock master, entered port yesterday morning to take about 225 tons of bunker coal from the later island. She sailed yesterday afternoon for Vladivostok via Muroran.

Men of the Eurymachus had not heard either of the great naval battle in the North Sea or of the loss of Earl Kitchener and his whole staff in the sinking of the British cruiser Hampshire off the Orkneys. The vessel has no wireless and she departed from Balboa before either occurred.

Another Blue Funnel Due

Much of the cargo was automobiles and machinery. Some sulphur in barrels was carried as deck freight. The Eurymachus, formerly the Indra line steamer Intercity, is a vessel of 4995 gross tonnage and 2033 net.

P. & O. Ship Is Stopped By Japanese

That a Peninsula and Oriental liner, British, was held up on the high seas out of Shanghai by a Japanese warship was news brought to Honolulu by officers of the T. K. K. steamer Shinyo Maru, which arrived Monday from Yokohama and which sailed for San Francisco yesterday morning. This is no more than a rumor, for no details were obtainable, such as the time, names of the liner and man-of-war.

MATSON VESSELS TO LEAVE SOUND?

A cablegram received here yesterday from San Francisco said that there was a "possibility" of the Matson sailings from Puget Sound to the Islands being suspended. No details were given, nor was the cause stated, whether due to possible hostilities with Mexico and taking over of the vessels by the government, or whether connected with the strike or some other purely commercial reason.

KOREAN MAN FOUND STARVING IN BUSHES

Weak and half-starved after being discharged from the Kalihii detention station, four days ago, San Ko Go, a Korean, was found lying in a clump of bushes near the high prison yesterday afternoon. He was taken to the emergency hospital, where it was found that his condition was such that he required constant attention. He was removed to The Queen's Hospital. Go apparently was weak and sick when he left the detention station. He fell in the road near the station, and without food or care remained in the bushes until he was found.

JAPANESE "DOCTOR" GETS BACK TO HIS OLD TRICKS

Kaneshige, a Japanese "doctor," recently convicted here of practicing without a license, is back at his old trade in Kohnia, according to information which reached Dr. J. S. B. Pratt, head of the board of health, yesterday. The assistant county attorney is taking the matter up over there.